Mobility Machinery

Mobility machinery is a term used to refer to the process units go through when deploying equipment and personnel for contingencies. The mobility machinery can be thought of as four broad phases, the Intel Gathering Phase, the Unit Type Code Build Phase, the UTC Finalize Phase, and the Deployment Phase.

PHASE 1

Intel gathering — This phase involves much more than checking the SIPRNET for the area of responsibility, force protection condition, information condition and weather conditions. The deployment planners review the preliminary tasking from the MAJCOM headquarters staff and determine what can and cannot be supported. They ensure the MAJCOM staff and the AOR have requested the correct UTCs to perform the mission. Based on the preliminary deployment timelines sent by the MAJCOM staff, the unit commander might recall UTC personnel and begin to prepare the required equipment for deployment.

PHASE 2

UTC build — In this phase, the MAJCOM staff and Aerospace Expeditionary Force center give verbal or informal written direction to the unit on specific tasked UTCs, and the dates they expect the airlift to arrive. Sometime during this phase, the AEF Center will finalize the Time Phased Force Deployment Data. While the personnel are getting prepared, the UTC chief directs the packing of the UTC's equipment and building of pallets. The unit engineers get more detailed information from the AOR such as satellite access, frequency clearances, establishment of SIPR and NIPR domains and other details the UTCs will require.

PHASE 3

UTC finalize — Combat communications units perform this final step as a "check-and-balance" mechanism to ensure there are no delays at the base's Deployment Control Center. The DCC is the final base agency that approves deployment of equipment and personnel. The CRC will recall their team of highly trained equipment and personnel quality assurance teams. The equipment QA team verifies the proper completion of hundreds of checklist items by the UTC chiefs. Everything from packing lists, to pallet weights, to center of mass calculations on vehicles, and hazardous materials declarations are scrutinized.

PHASE 4

Deployment phase — Behind the scenes, the unit's CRC continues to work the mobility machinery. Teams assemble to help the aircraft loadmaster and the base's aerial port personnel load equipment and pallets. The CRC assembles another team to build baggage pallets for the deploying personnel who are processing through the DCC. Another small team is embedded with the logisticians at the DCC, to ensure all the equipment and personnel paperwork is loaded into the DoD's standard deployment databases. Once all the personnel and equipment are loaded up on the aircraft, the unit's mobility machinery finally takes a break.

1 Intel gathering phase

2 Unit Type Code build phase

3 UTC finalize phase

4 Deployment phase

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